



Data directories

Linux	/opt/nessus/var/nessus
macOS	/Library/Nessus/run/var/nessus
Windows	C:\ProgramData\Tenable\Nessus\nessus

Binary directories and utilities

Linux	/opt/nessus/sbin /opt/nessus/bin
macOS	/Library/Nessus/run/sbin /Library/Nessus/run/bin
Windows	C:\Program Files\Tenable\Nessus C:\Program Files (x86)\Tenable\Nessus

- nessusd - e.g. to recompile plugins
- nessuscli - e.g. to configure, manage and update Nessus (docs)
- nasl - e.g. to test, run, sign plugins

Logs directories and files

Linux	/opt/nessus/var/nessus/logs
macOS	/Library/Nessus/run/var/nessus/logs
Windows	C:\ProgramData\Tenable\Nessus\nessus\logs

- nessusd.dump — Nessus dump log file used for debugging output.
- nessusd.messages — Nessus scanner log.
- www_server.log — Nessus web server log.
- backend.log — Nessus backend log.
- nessuscli.log — Nessus CLI log.

Plugin directories and files

Linux	/opt/nessus/lib/nessus/plugins
macOS	/Library/Nessus/run/lib/nessus/plugins
Windows	C:\ProgramData\Tenable\Nessus\nessus\plugins

- *.nasl - plugins with readable source code
- *.nbin - compiled plugins
- *.inc - include libraries

Search in plugin content

```
cd /opt/nessus/lib/nessus/plugins
grep -rl script_id.19506 . 1
```

- 1 Due to big number of plugins you need to use -r parameter to recursively search in plugins directory (i.e., force grep to behave as rgrep).

Advanced Settings

```
cd /opt/nessus/sbin
nessuscli fix --list
nessuscli fix --get setting_name
nessuscli fix --set setting_name=<value>
```

API

```
https://localhost:8834/api 1
https://localhost:8834/server/status 2
https://localhost:8834/server/properties 3
```

- 1 Access Nessus API documentation.
- 2 Check Nessus service status.
- 3 Check Nessus service version.

Good practices

When you run scan:

- Make sure that you have latest feed.
- Perform scan with credentials. (docs)

When you analyze scan results:

- Use Audit Trail to make sure why plugin did not provide result.
- Check Knowledge Base to find more details.

Additional resources

- docs.tenable.com/Nessus.htm - Nessus documentation
- tenable.com/plugins/search - Nessus Plugins Search
- community.tenable.com - Tenable Community
- github.com/tenable - Tenable profile at GitHub